

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 190751  
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-07 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05  
IGA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
/084 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:RGRICH,JR.:JCM  
APPROVED BY EA/K:RGRICH,JR.  
-----114101 121211Z /46  
R 120159Z AUG 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 190751

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: ROK EMBASSY REPRESENTATIONS ON SCM FOLLOW-UP

SUMMARY: ROK EMBASSY COUNSELOR CONVEYED ROKG'S STRONG  
CONCERN THAT MILITARY GAP TO BE CREATED BY WITHDRAWAL  
OF U.S. COMBAT GROUND FORCES FROM KOREA BE ADEQUATELY  
FILLED ON TIMELY BASIS AND THAT THIS BE DEMONSTRATED  
THROUGH EARLY CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF NECESSARY  
EQUIPMENT TRANSFERS AND FMS CREDITS. END SUMMARY.

1. ROK EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR YU CHONG-HA  
CALLED AT THE DEPARTMENT AUGUST 11 TO CONVEY OFFICIAL  
VIEWS OF ROKG FOLLOWING SECURITY CONSULTATIVE MEETING  
(SCM).

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PAGE 02 STATE 190751

2. YU, WHO HAD ATTENDED SEOUL SCM, SAID THAT IT HAD  
BEEN HIS FIRST TRIP IN MORE THAN THREE YEARS AND HE WAS  
SHOCKED IN SEOUL TO FIND A DEEP SENSE OF DISQUIET AND  
DISTRUST OF USG STEADFASTNESS. HE FELT THAT THIS MOOD  
WAS PERVASIVE.

3. TURNING TO OFFICIAL VIEWS, YU STATED THAT HE WAS

SPEAKING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO SUMMARIZE ROKG POSITION ON SECURITY QUESTIONS FOLLOWING THE RECENT SCM. YU EMPHASIZED THAT USG DECISION TO WITHDRAW GROUND COMBAT FORCES WAS UNILATERAL DECISION, AND THAT ROK WAS REALLY NOT CONSULTED WITH ANY OPTIONS IN VIEW. NEVERTHELESS, ROKG, IN EFFORT TO BE COOPERATIVE, HAD DECIDED NOT TO CONTEST THE WITHDRAWAL DECISION. THE ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL MATTER FOR SEOUL, HOWEVER, WAS THAT THE GAP IN COMBAT POWER CREATED BY THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES BE ADEQUATELY FILLED.

4. ROKG EXPERIENCE WITH THE FORCE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM LAUNCHED IN 1971 HAD NOT BEEN SATISFACTORY SINCE, DESPITE FIRM USG COMMITMENTS, THE PROGRAM HAD BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY STRETCHED OUT AS A RESULT OF CONGRESSIONAL FACTORS. IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THIS NOT HAPPEN AGAIN, AS IT WOULD BRING ABOUT CONSIDERABLE UNCERTAINTY IN KOREA AS WELL AS DISRUPT MILITARY PLANNING.

5. YU PRESSED FOR OUTLINE OF USG LEGISLATIVE STRATEGY ON COMPENSATORY MILITARY PACKAGE, BUT EA/K DIRECTOR RICH EMPHASIZED THAT CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESS WERE STILL UNDERWAY, AS WAS THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN OUR DEFENSE DEPARTMENTS REGARDING EQUIPMENT PRIORITIES, AND THEREFORE FINAL LEGISLATIVE STRATEGY WAS YET TO BE DETERMINED. YU WAS INFORMED, HOWEVER, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 190751

THAT THE FIRST ASPECT TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS WOULD PROBABLY BE THE NO-COST TRANSFER AUTHORITY COVERING THE ENTIRE PACKAGE OF TRANSFERS STILL UNDER NEGOTIATION.

6. EMPHASIZING AGAIN THE GREAT DIFFICULTY WHICH WOULD BE CREATED FOR THE ROK IF THE MILITARY COMPENSATION PACKAGE BECAME DIFFUSED AND DELAYED IN SUCCESSIVE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGETS, YU STATED THE ROKG'S STRONG HOPE THAT, IF POSSIBLE, THE USG SEEK THE ENTIRE SPECIAL FMS PACKAGE EARLY AS A SINGLE SPECIAL PIECE OF LEGISLATION. PASSAGE OF SUCH A BILL WOULD GO FAR TO REMOVE THE LINGERING DISQUIET REGARDING THE USG'S ABILITY TO CARRY OUT ESSENTIAL COMPENSATORY MEASURES TO HELP FILL THE GAP OF U.S. FORCE WITHDRAWALS.

7. IN CLOSING, YU STATED THE IMPORTANCE OF COMPENSATORY MEASURES PROCEEDING ON A TIMELY BASIS IN PARALLEL WITH U.S. WITHDRAWALS AND NOT LAGGING BEHIND. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** ROK EMBASSY REPRESENTATIONS ON SCM FOLLOW-UP SUMMARY: ROK EMBASSY COUNSELOR CONVEYED ROKG'S STRONG CONCERN THAT MILITARY GAP TO BE CREATED BY WITHDRA  
**TAGS:** MARR, MASS, PGOV, KS, US  
**To:** SEOUL  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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